

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 SSO-00

/019 W

----- 128923

P R 131550Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0809

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MAZATLAN 0284

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX (BURKHART, ROBERT)

SUBJ: W/W: ASSAULT OF ROBERT BURKHART

1. ON JULY 10, MR. ROBERT BURKHART, AN ENTYMOLOGIST FROM HAWAII CALLED THE CONSULATE AND REPORTED THAT ON JULY 9 AT 11:30 AM HE HAD BEEN ASSAULTED AND ROBBED OF HIS AUTO-MOBILE WHILE CATCHING INSECTS IN A FIELD NEAR CULIACAN. THE CONSULATE PUT HIM IN IMMEDIATE TOUCH WITH ITS CONTACT, PROFR. ARTIDORO CAMEZ IN CULIACAN. PROFESSOR CAMEZ SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED THE FOLLOWING: MR. BURKHART TOLD HIM THAT WHILE DOING SOME OFF THE ROAD FIELD WORK AT LIMON DE LOS RAMOS (PRECISELY THE HOUR AT WHICH THE CONSUL WAS ON A FIELD TRIP IN THE AREA) TWO MEXICANS APPROACHED HIM, IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS MFJP, AND REQUESTED THAT HE OPEN HIS CAR FOR A MARIHUANA SEARCH. WHEN BURKHART REFUSED, THEY PUT A GUN TO HIS HEAD, AND HE GAVE THEM THE CAR KEYS. THE ARMED MEN THEN REQUESTED BURKHART TO ENTER A PICK-UP TRUCK PARKED NEARBY. AFTER PROCEEDING UP THE ROAD IN THE PICK-UP A FEW METERS, BURKHART JOINED A U.S. CITIZEN, MRS. THERESA GALVAN AND HER LEGAL RESIDENT HUSBAND OF 12229 CHOSEN STREET, EL MONTE, CA., WHO WERE IN THE SAME PREDICAMENT. THE TWO BANDITS JOINED BY THREE CONFEDERATES WHO WERE HOLDING THE COUPLE PRISONERS THEN FORCED THE TRIO TO MARCH THROUGH THE WOODS. DURING THIS MARCH, BURKHART BROKE FREE AND MANAGED TO ESCAPE THROUGH A HAIL OF BULLETS. BURKHART RAN UNTIL EXHAUSTED AND FOUND HIMSELF ON THE BORDER OF A SMALL LAKE IN UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH SUBMERGED HIMSELF UNTIL 4 A.M. THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

HE THEN EMERGED AND STARTED WALKING TOWARDS THE ROAD. MEANWHILE THE GALVANS HAD APPARENTLY BEEN TURNED LOOSE AND HAD REPORTED THE INCIDENT TO THE CULIACAN STATE JUDICIAL POLICE. THE POLICE THEN SENT MEN TO THE VICINITY TO LOOK FOR BURKHART WHO, UPON SEEING THEM, WAS TERRIFIED AND REFUSED TO ACCOMPANY THEM BACK TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS. AN AMBULANCE THAT THE POLICE HAD DETAILED TO REPORT TO THE AREA FINALLY ARRIVED ON THE SCENE AND CONVINCED BURKHART THAT THESE POLICE WERE GENUINE. AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, BURKHART JOINED FORCES WITH THE GALVANS IN IDENTIFYING FIVE MEXICANS, ONE OF WHOM SPOKE ENGLISH, AS THEIR ASSAILANTS. THE FIVE HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR CARRYING ILLEGAL ARMS. BOTH THE GALVAN AND THE BURKHART CARS WERE RECOVERED IN GOOD CONDITION. EIGHTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS IN TRAVELERS' CHECKS BELONGING TO BURKHART ARE STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR.

2. BURKHART HAS BEEN WELL TAKEN CARE OF IN THE HOME OF THE CONSULATE'S CONTACT IN CULIACAN. FUNDS WERE MADE AVAILABLE FOR BURKHART THROUGH A LOCAL BANK BY FRIENDS IN MONTERREY, MEXICO.

3. MRS. GALVAN HAS BEEN IN A HYSTERICAL STATE SINCE THE INCIDENT, AND SHE AND HER HUSBAND WERE AFRAID TO DRIVE HOME TO EL MONTE, CALIFORNIA. THE CONSULATE'S CONTACT ARRANGED FOR A DRIVER AND THEY ARE NOW ENROUTE HOME.

4. POLICE ARE NOW ATTEMPTING TO ATTRIBUTE OTHER SIMILAR CRIMES IN THE AREA TO THESE FIVE MEN.
MATTHEWS

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 SSO-00

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P R 131610Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0810

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS FINAL SECTION 2 OF 2 MAZATLAN 0284

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX (BURKHART, ROBERT)

SUBJ: W/W: ASSAULT OF ROBERT BURKHART

5. THESE TWO INCIDENTS MAKE THE FOURTH CRIME IN THIS TYPE IN THE CULIACAN AREA IN THE PAST THREE WEEKS. OF THE OTHER TWO, ONE CRIME WAS PERPETRATED ON AN AMERICAN COUPLE, THE OTEROS (SEE MAZATLAN'S 0243) AND THE OTHER WAS ON A GERMAN COUPLE WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES. IN BOTH CASES, THEY WERE ROBBED OF ALL POSSESSIONS INCLUDING THEIR CLOTHES AND AUTO-MOBILES AND LEFT ON THE HIGHWAY IN THEIR UNDERWEAR.

6. CRIME HAS BEEN ON THE INCREASE IN SINALOA, ESPECIALLY IN CULIACAN WHICH HAS BEEN CALLED QUOTE LITTLE CHICAGO UNQUOTE BY THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS BECAUSE OF THE GANGSTER TYPE MURDERS AND ROBBERIES WHICH ARE OCCURRING FREQUENTLY. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, SOME OF THE CRIME IS DUE TO THE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS AND SOME TO THE COMMUNIST STUDENT GROUPS. CULIACAN HAS RECENTLY APPOINTED A NEW STATE JUDICIAL POLICE CHIEF IN AN EFFORT TO CURB THIS OUT-OF-HAND SITUATION. THE CULIACAN MAYOR TOLD THE CONSUL THAT ASSAULTS ON U.S. CITIZENS IN THAT AREA HAVE PRACTICALLY STOPPED ALL VEHICULAR TRAVEL BY AMERICANS TO CULIACAN AND THAT THOSE COMING TO HUNT AND FISH ARE NOW TRAVELLING BY AIR.

7. ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE IN MAZATLAN'S "EL SOL DEL PACIFICO" ON JULY 2, THE FEDERAL SUB-DELEGATE OF TOURISM, GILBERT LIMON, STATED IN PART THAT AN ALARMING CRIME RATE, WHICH WAS DAMAGING UNCLASSIFIED

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THE TOURIST INDUSTRY, HAD DEVELOPED IN THIS AREA AND WAS BEING WIDELY PUBLICIZED IN THE UNITED STATES IN A PRESS CAMPAIGN TO DISCOURAGE TOURISTS FROM VISITING MAZATLAN. LIMON SAID THERE IS PRACTICALLY NO PROTECTION FOR TOURISTS, PARTICULARLY ON THE HIGHWAYS WHERE IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS SEVERAL U.S. CITIZENS WERE ASSAULTED AT MACHINE GUN POINT AND ROBBED OF THEIR AUTOMOBILES AND POSSESSIONS. MR. LIMON REMARKED THAT THE SITUATION IS DIFFICULT BECAUSE THE POLICE PROTECTION IS INADEQUATE. HE FURTHER INDICATED THAT THE VIOLENCE IN CULIACAN ALSO AFFECTED MAZATLAN AND STATED THAT CULIACAN AVERAGED 2.7 MURDERS PER DAY, 90 PER MONTH AND 540 EVERY SIX MONTHS, WHICH IS A HIGHER AVERAGE THAN IN THE ENTIRE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA WHICH TOTALS 520 DEATHS EVERY SIX MONTHS. MR. LIMON RECOMMENDED THAT ADDITIONAL POLICE OR THE ARMY INTERVENE TO OFFER THE NECESSARY PROTECTION TO VISITORS TO THIS AREA. MR. LIMON ALSO COMMENTED THAT MANY INCIDENTS OF ASSAULT AND ROBBERY IN THIS AREA ARE NOT REPORTED BY THE VICTIMS BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WANT THE PUBLICITY. SEVERAL OF THE INCIDENTS MENTIONED IN THE ARTICLE WERE REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT WHEN THE CONSULATE LEARNED OF THEM.

8. DURING A RECENT VISIT TO CULIACAN BY THE CONSUL, THE MAYOR ADVISED HER TO BE SURE TO LET HIM KNOW PRIOR TO HER NEXT VISIT SO HE COULD ARRANGE TO HAVE HER MET BY POLICE AT THE CITY LIMITS AND ESCORTED DURING HER VISITS. THE CONSUL'S CONTACT IN LOS MOCHIS HAS ALSO CAUTIONED HER TO ADVISE HIM WHEN SHE PLANS TO BE IN LOS MOCHIS SO THAT HE CAN OFFER PROTECTION.

9. ON JULY 6, AN ARTICLE IN MAZATLAN'S "EL SOL DEL PACIFICO" ANNOUNCED THAT MAZATLAN HAS ONLY THIRTY-FIVE POLICE TO GUARD IT DAY AND NIGHT. COL. ALBERT, CHIEF OF POLICE, COMMENTED THAT NO ONE WANTED TO BE A POLICEMAN. HE SAID THEY DID NOT LIKE THE DISCIPLINE AND THEY FEARED THE DANGEROUS SITUATION NOW EXISTING. THEY ALSO HAD NOT BEEN PAID FOR OVER A MONTH. COL. ALBERT REPORTED THAT THERE WERE MANY RESIGNATIONS AND DESERTIONS. MATTHEWS

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